

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 21, 22, 39, 40, 49 and 50 would be allowable if re-written into independent form.

Claim 55 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite since original claims 55 depends from itself. Applicants appreciate the Office Action noting this typographical error. Claim 55 has been amended to depend from claim 54.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16, 19, 20, 24-30, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41-43, 45-48, 52-58 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Gabr (U.S. Patent No. 4,379,951).

To expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended claims to include the features that were considered allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-17, 23-28, 33-35, 41, 46, 52-56, 61-63 and 65-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,860).

As discussed above, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended the claims to include features that were considered allowable. For at least this reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 10, 17, 18, 23, 31, 35, 36, 44, 51 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabr.

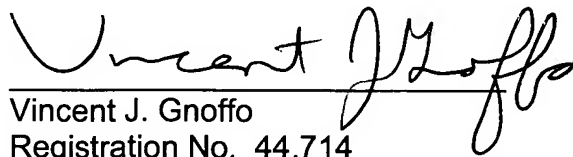
As discussed above, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended the claims to include features that were considered allowable. For at least this reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 33 and 61-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabr in view of Kasajima.

As discussed above, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended the claims to include features that were considered allowable. For at least this reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference or with a visit to the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Gnoffo", written over a horizontal line.

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